



“The One True God: the Father and the Son and the Holy Ghost”

5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK Liturgical Text; Psalm 8:1-5

Blessed the Holy / Trinity*
 and the Undivided / Unity:
 Let us give glo- / ry to Him*
 For He has shown mercy / unto us.
 O / Lord, our Lord,*
 How excellent is Your name in / all the earth,
 You have set Your glory above the / heavens!*
 Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants, You have or- / dained
 strength.
 What is man that You are mind- / ful of him,*
 and the son of man that You / visit him?
 For You have made him a little lower than the / angels,*
 and You have crowned him with glory and / honor.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **Isaiah 6:7**

“And [the seraphim] touched my mouth [with the burning coal] and said:
 ‘Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin
 atoned for.’”

7 READ THE SCRIPTURE AND DEVOTION (OTHER SIDE OF THE PAGE)

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Almighty and everlasting God, who has given to us, Your servants, grace, by
 the confession of a truth faith, to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity
 and in the power of the Divine Majesty to worship the Unity, we implore You
 that You would keep us steadfast in this faith and evermore defend us from
 all adversities; who lives and reigns, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God,
 now and forever. Amen.

9 PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

10 SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK
We All Believe in One True God

TLH 251, LSB 95
 Martin Luther



1. We all believe in one true God,
 Who created earth and heaven,
 The Father, who to us in love
 Hath the right of children given.
 He both soul and body feedeth,
 All we need He doth provide us;
 He through snares and perils leadeth,
 Watching that no harm betide us.
 He careth for us day and night,
 All things are governed by His might.

2. We all believe in Jesus Christ,
 His own Son, our Lord, possessing
 An equal Godhead, throne, and might,
 Source of every grace and blessing.
 Born of Mary, virgin mother,

By the power of the Spirit,
 Made true man, our elder Brother,
 That the lost might life inherit;
 Was crucified for sinful men
 And raised by God to life again.

3. We all confess the Holy Ghost,
 Who sweet grace and comfort giveth
 And with the Father and the Son
 In eternal glory liveth;
 Who the Church, His own creation,
 Keeps in unity of spirit.
 Here forgiveness and salvation
 Daily come through Jesus' merit.
 All flesh shall rise, and we shall be
 In bliss with God eternally. Amen.

1 BLESS YOURSELF WITH THE HOLY CROSS AND SAY:
 In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

2 SAY THE APOSTLES' CREED
 I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
 Maker of heaven and earth.
 And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our
 Lord, who was conceived by the Holy
 Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered
 under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died
 and was buried. He descended into hell.
 The third day He rose again from the
 dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at
 the right hand of God, the Father
 Almighty. From thence He will come to
 judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy
 Christian church, the communion of
 saints, the forgiveness of sins, the
 resurrection of the body, and the life
 everlasting. Amen.

3 PRAY THE LORD'S PRAYER
 Our Father, who art in
 heaven,
 hallowed be Thy name,
 Thy kingdom come,
 Thy will be done on earth as it
 is in heaven.
 Give us this day our daily
 bread;
 and forgive us our trespasses
 as we forgive those who
 trespass against us;
 and lead us not into
 temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.
 For Thine is the kingdom and
 the power and the glory
 forever and ever. Amen.

4 PRAY THE MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER

Morning. I thank You, my
 heavenly Father, through Jesus
 Christ, Your dear Son, that You
 have kept me this night from all
 harm and danger; and I pray that
 You would keep me this day also
 from sin and every evil, that all my
 doings and life may please You.
 For into Your hands I commend
 myself, my body and soul, and all
 things. Let Your holy angel be with
 me, that the evil foe may have no
 power over me. Amen.

Evening. I thank you, my
 heavenly Father, through Jesus
 Christ, Your dear Son, that You
 have graciously kept me this day;
 and I pray that You would forgive
 me all my sins where I have done
 wrong, and graciously keep me this
 night. For into Your hands, I
 commend myself, my body and
 soul, and all things. Let Your holy
 angel be with me, that the evil foe
 may have no power over me. Amen.

THEME OF THE WEEK: **The One True God: the Father and the Son and the Holy Ghost**

We can say a great deal about God. In fact, we have three Creeds that do so as succinctly and as definitively as possible. Sure, our sinful minds and fallen hearts want to add to this language. We want to interject our feelings and emotions, our rationale and logic. But no matter how good our intentions might be, whenever we add anything of ourselves into a description about God, we always end up in error. That's why the Creeds exist, to keep us from harmful speculation about God. So we only speak back to God what God says about Himself. Yes, sometimes it is mysterious and unexplainable. Good, just let the mystery stand, for God does not lie about Himself, better, then, to let Him speak for Himself.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: **John 3:1-15—The Serpent And The Son**

There is a lot going on here and Nicodemus is at a complete loss. Jesus talks about a mystery (baptism) and Nicodemus hasn't a clue. He tries to rationalize, but nothing Jesus says makes sense. It won't, not for a while (wait until Thursday), but that has never stopped Jesus from proclaiming His Gospel before. Despite Nicodemus' confusion, Jesus points back in time to a snake on a stick, and forward in time to a Savior on a cross. Whatever Jesus means by being born again, it won't be fulfilled and can't be understood apart from the cross. God is always about saving His people, and yes, sometimes in the most confusing sorts of ways: a bronze serpent on a stick, a beaten and dying Jesus on a cross. Maybe, just maybe, this whole water and the Word thing will bring salvation too. *Son of Man, grant me eternal life. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: **Isaiah 6:1-7—A Sinner Saved**

Isaiah sees the indescribable God. I say, "indescribable," because Isaiah doesn't describe Him. His clothes: yes. The angels: yes. The temple and the smoke and everything else: yes. But not God. Apart from Christ, God is beyond description. But with all of the unknown, there is one thing that is certain: Isaiah knows that he deserves to die because the sinner that he is stands in the midst of someone all-together indescribably holy. He is terrified and stands there blathering with unclean lips. And so God does the unexpected. Instead of casting the unworthy sinner away or striking him dead with a bolt of lightning, God sends His angel to the altar, to the place where cleansing takes place, and He has him touch Isaiah's lips with a coal to atone for sin. Imagine that, something from an altar touching lips to make them clean; sounds familiar. *Holy God, forgive our sin. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: **Romans 11:33-36—The Depth Of God**

Throughout chapter 11, we see that God always preserved a remnant of Israel. Throughout the Old Testament, despite the continual adulterous idolatry, despite the Egyptians and Assyrians and Babylonians, God miraculously preserved a faithful remnant. It had nothing to do with Israel's goodness. So too for the Gentiles. Those who had always thought to be outside are now grafted in, made to be of the same shoot and same tree in order to produce the same fruit of faith. They too deserved nothing of God's grace and mercy, otherwise it couldn't rightly be called grace or mercy. By the end of this chapter, Paul is at a loss for words, that is how unsearchable the gracious ways of God are. They are unfathomable, beyond reason, far, far beyond merit. They are pure gift. *Father of Abraham and God of the Gentiles, all glory be Yours forever. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: **Ezekiel 18:30-32—What The Lord Desires**

Earlier we heard about sour grapes and tangy teeth. The people shook their fists at God, asking Him why He would punish them for the sins of their fathers. (Just another way of a sinner trying to free himself from the bondage of sin.) And so God makes it clear that all are judged, justly, based upon their own merits. We must stop trying to justify ourselves with the Law. Saying it doesn't apply to us will do nothing and neither will our vain attempts at fulfilling it. All that is left to do is kneel and confess that we are poor miserable sinners deserving God's temporal and eternal judgment. The fault is mine, no one else's. Dear God, have mercy! And He does! And so He did. He doesn't desire the death of the sinner. That's why He made that death His own, so that you might have His life. *Righteous Judge, judge me righteous for the sake of Christ. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: **Matthew 28:18-20—Making Disciples**

"Time to make that cross thing personal," that is what Jesus is saying here. Everything is accomplished, all has been won through Christ's perfect life, death, and resurrection. Now that victory must be given in time and space to the poor miserable sinners who are in such desperate need of it. "Go pour some water on the peoples' heads and place the Triune Name of God upon them. Bury them into My death in a watery grave and raise them to new life upon the shores of salvation. Teach them everything, My Law and My Gospel, for man lives on every breath that comes from My mouth. Forgive their sin! Do it for real. Don't just remind them that they are forgiven, but forgive them. And then distribute My meal of body and blood that I might be with them always." This is Jesus' Great Commission, and it is for you! *Savior, give me Your cross. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: **2 Corinthians 13:14—A Perfect Way To End An Epistle**

Many pastors say this, or something like it, at the end of their sermons. They take their lead from Paul, of course. Their prayer is that all that has been proclaimed may be for your good and your benefit. Paul desires this very thing as well. That is why he blesses us with these words, with God's name, to sanctify us and make us holy in the one truth faith that has just been proclaimed to/over us. For what is the grace of Jesus if it is not His cross? And what is the love of God if it is not Him sending His Son? And what is the fellowship of the Holy Spirit if it isn't a unity of doctrine in these things and in everything else that has been divinely breathed through the mouth of Jesus' apostles? This blessing of the Triune name is the same name placed upon you at baptism. It will be the same name that blesses you until and throughout eternity. *Triune God, bless us. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: **Psalms 143—A Psalm Of Prayer...**

Hear my prayer, O Lord, though I do not deserve it! For Your sake, for Your faithfulness, not mine, answer me this day. I have no righteousness to call my own, yet do not judge me, I pray. My spirit is at the point of despair. My heart is broken. And so I remember Your mighty works of old. May I hear of Your continual love for me in Christ, how you are gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Once you have crushed me with by Your righteous Law, let me hear of only your Gospel. Teach me Your ways that I may delight in them. All the days of my life, may Your Spirit guide me. Preserve my life from evil and when you call me from this wretched place, bring my soul out of death to eternal life. This I pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Your Son, My Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

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